



The Green Thumb

A Newsletter of Extension Horticultural Activities and Events
For York County Extension Volunteers

Vol. 5, Issue 4
April, 2004

Calendar of Events

May 1, 9am-12 noon	Learning Garden Plant Sale
May 1 & 8, 9am-3pm	VA Living Museum Spring Flower Sale
May 2 & 9, noon-3pm	VA Living Museum Spring Flower Sale
May 4, 6:30pm-7:45pm	On Site Health Clinic, Skimino Estates, Upper York Co
May 5, 9:30am-11:30am	Landscape Design Series, Libby Oliver, Queens Lake
May 6, 6:30pm-7:45pm	On Site Health Clinic, Edgehill, Yorktown
May 8, 9am-5pm	4-H Teen/Adult Camp Counselor Training, Jamestown 4-H Center
May 11-13, 8am-until	2004 Study Trip to Raleigh-Durham area
May 18, 9am-12 noon	Advanced Lawn Training, location to be decided
May 19, 9:30am-11:30am	Landscape Design Series, Red Maple Inn, Newport News
May 20, 6:30pm	On Site Plant Health Clinic, Buckingham Place, Dandy
May 21, 12-1pm	WHRO 89.5 Gardening Radio Show
Jun 2, 9:30am-11:30am	Landscape Design Series, location to be decided
Jun 23, 9:30am-11:30am	Landscape Design Series, location to be decided

Thursdays Work/Learn Day in the Learning Garden 9:30 – 11:30 a.m.

For additions/corrections to the Calendar of Events contact Jody at 890-4940 or Dianne Taylor at 868-4090, e-mail: taylors@exis.net. The deadline for the Green Thumb is ALWAYS the 15th of the month, no exception.

E-mail changes: If you have changes to any of the methods of communication, please notify Jody. Jody will pass the word. We want to keep in contact with you. These changes will be posted to the weekly e-mails and will be in the Green Thumb.

Master Gardener Mission Statement

Our mission, as trained volunteers in partnership with the York County, Virginia Cooperative Extension Agent, is to provide horticultural educational opportunities to the public through research-based horticultural programs and activities to enhance our environment, lives and community.

www.ext.vt.edu

Extension is a joint program of Virginia Tech, Virginia State University, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and state and local governments.

Virginia Cooperative Extension programs and employment are open to all, regardless, of race, color, religion, sex, age, veteran status, national origin, disability, or political affiliation. An equal opportunity/affirmative action employer.

Notes from Jim

I am excited about the fact that I have heard so many volunteers express interest in 2004 State Master Gardener College to be held in Blacksburg on June 10- 13. I don't have information yet. Frank Reilley, a master gardener and 2003 coordinator, has not released information. When it is released, our office is notified. Last year registration was done primarily via the web, I am sure that will be practiced again. Scholarships to attend will be available. Here is the web address to add the sites to your favorites, www.vmganet.net or <http://www.ext.vt.edu/vce/anr/horticulture/environmental/mastergard/>

Plant Health Clinics are a great avenue to listen and see situations in the garden that get positive answers/solutions. You are welcome to attend any or all of these. If you want to work with the team please let Kathi Hebert know. See more about this later in this addition.

Some Master Gardeners have indicated that they will be moving from the area. If this is the case, please contact us so that we might send you with a letter that states you are in good standing so that you may serve as a Master Gardener in another location.

Please continue to promote Extension programs to your friends. One of the best advertisements is by word of mouth. You will read about many of those programs in this edition of the Green Thumb.

I trust that all of you will be able to attend the Volunteer Recognition Picnic scheduled for April 3. I am very appreciative to the Board of Supervisors for scheduling this event. What a great service you do for the Extension Office, the community, and each other. There are times I look at the schedule and I know that Larry Riddick and Janine Casey are in Chesapeake teaching and training a new class of master gardeners while at the same time a committee for the Plant Health Clinics are meeting, and I am at a scheduled event and I know many jobs are getting done without my intervention or participation. That is the multiplier effect. You provide services to citizens that could not be extended unless you did them. I know that you say you do them because you owe the hours; but I say that you do them because you enjoy helping people. You volunteer and provide a direct valuable service to the taxpayer and to this office. You and I know how valuable you are when you respond to phone calls or cover the office when Jody is at training, or help copy and fold documents to be used in a program.

With all that you do to extend the services of the York County Cooperative Extension office, I would be writing thank you notes constantly. This is why I like the County Volunteer Picnic because it's our collective way to thank you for all that you do. I appreciate all of your efforts and am proud to be associated with you.

Thank you!

Virginia Tech Announces New State Master Gardener Coordinator

Virginia Tech has announced the selection of Mr. David Close for the position of State Master Gardener Coordinator. Dave is now on board and is working hard to get his feet on the ground. He comes from a Community Forestry Program at Southern Illinois University. Although Dave is well versed in community programs and volunteer management, he will focus initially on learning and understanding the Virginia Master Gardener system.

With Dave in place, the circumstances are right to establish significant continuity and dedication to the position of the State Master Gardener Coordinator. Let's support Dave and help him learn the program slowly and properly. If you have any questions or comments regarding how you might help, please contact Ms Joyce Latimer, Interim Faculty Leader, Virginia Master Gardener Program, Extension Project Leader, Department of Horticulture Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, VA 24061-0327

If you would like to welcome Dave on board, his email address is dclose@vt.edu and his telephone number is 540-231-2714. Welcome, Dave!!

Master Garden Interns Receive Their 50 Hour Awards

Congratulations to 2003 Master Gardener Interns Clare Britcher, Janine Casey, and Karen Hokansson for their significant contributions to the York County Extension Program. All their energy and creativity quickly racked up more than the 50 hours needed to receive their title as Master Gardener.

Clare Britcher volunteered to be an Assistant Chair for the Pruning team. She felt a little apprehensive about teaching one of the classes. Her approach was to go back to the pruning section of the Master Gardener Handbook. With that information in hand, her classes went well and were well received. She reports that this experience increased her own knowledge and confidence a 100%. Another way she racked up hours was to be available to fill in when other people had to cancel out of various commitments. She assisted with the Horticultural Extravaganza and afterwards wrote job descriptions/operating instructions to assist future managers of the HE. Currently, she's project manager and liaison for CNU's 7th Annual Gardening Symposium. Again, she's meeting new people at CNU and honing her organizational skills. Another project she's enthusiastic about is working with the Yorktown-Jamestown Festival Committee. The Extension Office is working with the committee because they want to plant a lot of trees as part of the celebration. Through out all these challenges, many people worked with her and provided assistance. One person, in particular, Janine Casey, was always there to help.

Janine Casey ends this month with over 250 hours. As manager of the pruning team, she organized and presented one of the most comprehensive and effective pruning classes ever. Janine and her team presented 5 public pruning clinics, 3 MG training classes, 5 advanced training clinics, and trained over 315 people. She originated some new ideas for the class as well. She had trainees fill out a survey to gauge how much they had learned during the class. The surveys showed significant increases in knowledge. She conducted site visits to the homeowners who hosted pruning classes. She prepared a plant guide for each homeowner that showed all their plants and identified when and how they were to be pruned. This was particularly well received. These guides were an outstanding tool for the other members of the pruning team allowing them to quickly identify plants and answer questions from members of the class. For the Master Gardener classes, Janine took samples of many plants all over the area and brought them into class. Her preparations for the class included preparing pruning posters and class training materials as PowerPoint presentations. She also prepared a continuity book that contained operating instructions and checklists to explain how to present pruning classes at a homeowner site, at a business like True Value Hardware, or to master gardener classes. She also developed scripts for pruning tools and equipment explaining their use and care. She also earned hours as coordinator of the very successful Horticultural Extravaganza. She coordinated the activities of 12 committees providing assistance and troubleshooting as necessary. Janine says her committee chairs were so professional that she really felt like she had very little to do. She also earned hours working with other programs like the 4-H Learning Garden. She credits her success to two people who provided her with advice and assistance. Evelyn Parker was enormously helpful in many areas and was always willing to share her time. Larry Riddick was a tremendous help on the pruning team and was always there to help.

Karen Hokansson volunteered to be one of the moderators at the Mid-Atlantic Horticultural Short Course. A number of subject matter experts presented the latest information and concepts to the gardening industry. Karen's hours mounted up as she attended planning meetings and participated in activities such as room set up, delivering handouts, providing instructions to the class and introducing speakers. All these activities were opportunities to quickly get to know other people who shared her interests in gardening. Learning about the industry led to her to become the Editor of "The Advisor" newsletter. The York County Extension Office uses this newsletter to direct the latest government and private horticultural research to nursery and garden centers, green house growers, and other large-scale plant producers. The newsletter allows her to meet people in the industry and adds greatly to her store of knowledge. In addition, she racked up lots of hours working with the pruning team, responding to horticultural questions on the Extension Office phones, and working with the Horticultural Extravaganza.

Clare, Janine, and Karen all agree on one thing. They had a lot of fun, met great new friends, learned a lot, and always had great support from other Master Gardeners. So don't be apprehensive about tackling new projects, with the Master Gardeners behind you, you can't fail. Dianne Taylor, 868-4090

Learning Garden

Come and join us every Thursday morning (9:30 - 12:00) for one of the best seasons in the garden. We are working very hard to pot up plants for the Plant Sale (May 1st) and to get the garden cleaned up. Even if you only have an hour or so, we encourage you to join us -- we know you'll love the time you spend in the garden.

If you have divided plants in your yard for the Plant Sale, please remember to label them when you bring them over to the garden and if you know you will have several of any one kind, please call Teela (890-2709) so she can prepare the labels ahead of time. Pot up your plants NOW so they have a chance to develop a root system before we sell them. Terry Hanson, 872-9639

Last Call for the CNU's 7th Annual Gardening Symposium

First of all, a big THANK YOU to all those Master Gardeners who signed up to be moderators for this upcoming event. You really came through! But I still need your assistance. As we all know, the professors from CNU support us heavily by donating their valuable time to train us to be Master Gardeners. Now, they could use our help. CNU is hoping to get a large turnout this year and you can help to make that happen by attending this marvelous event yourself. Please tell your friends, family, and neighbors about it. It will be held at Christopher Newport University on Saturday, April 17th, from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM. The \$15 cost is a "steal" and a ticket would make a nice gift for a gardener friend, wouldn't it? The admission price includes a box lunch, keynote speech, two 60-minute workshops, and plant sales/displays, flower arranging exhibit, CNU garden tours, silent drawing of garden giveaways, and more. (Wow!) The registration deadline is April 2, 2004. Symposium brochures/registration forms are available at the extension office or you can contact CNU Lifelong Learning directly at 594-7568 or www.cnu.edu/lfs. I hope to see many of you there! Clare Britcher, 867-7970.

2004 On Site Plant Health Clinics

Join us in neighborhood gardens as we help citizens identify proper and improper gardening techniques. Master Gardeners will assist in a brief review of existing problems. Then they will walk around with residents and their neighbors to observe, diagnose and recommend remedies for landscape problems. Q and A period will close the clinic. All clinics begin at 6:30 pm and last for about 75 minutes.

Schedule is as follows:

APRIL	MAY
Tues 6 th , Coventry Subdivision, Tabb	Tues 4 th , Skimino Estates, Upper York County
Tues 20 th , Yorkshire Downs, Tabb	Thurs 6 th , Edgehill, Yorktown
Wed 28 th , Lakes of Dare, Grafton	Thurs 20 th , Buckingham Place, Dandy

Due to a misplaced volunteer signup list, if you have not been contacted about assisting with one of the clinics, please notify Kathi Hebert, 766-2492 or Flwrladi@aol.com.

4-H Vegetable Garden at Waller Mill Elementary School

It's springtime! We all know this translates into garden time. This is also the perfect opportunity to introduce elementary students to the joy of growing vegetables as well as the "hows and whys" of plant development. Waller Mill Elementary School has graciously allowed us to implement the 4-H Garden Plan in their back yard. We will be presenting the program to the third and fourth grade students in the months of March and April. In June, we will reap the rewards of the harvest and enjoy a "home grown salad" with the students.

We can always use additional Master Gardeners for this project. If you would like to participate, do not hesitate to contact me via telephone at 565 - 7517 or via email, <mailto:lindaschutter@cox.net>.

Arbor Day

The Arbor Day Team, in conjunction with Grafton Bethel Elementary School, is developing multiple activities for the different classes. This year, Virginia's Arbor Day falls on Friday, April 9th. Mrs. D. Laura, 1st grade teacher, is coordinating the school's programs which include plant related art projects for the kindergarteners and 1st graders, terrariums by the 2nd graders and enthusiastic weeding of the Grizzly Getaway garden by the 3rd graders with advice by the Master Gardeners as to what is a weed and what isn't. Also for those first 4 grades that morning will be an audience participation skit developed by Joanne Roberts on the history of Arbor day and a photo slide show of plants and wild critters. After the 3rd graders finish rearranging the garden, the 4th graders will plant brought-from-home plants with our help and advice. A tree identification program is also planned for the 4th graders in the front of the school using the pines, oaks, dogwood, redbud, holly and other trees as examples. The 5th graders will plant and dedicate a mimosa tree in the garden as their contribution to the school. The beautiful flowers of the mimosa will fill the garden with its wonderful aroma and attract beautiful butterflies and hummingbirds for the students to enjoy.
Harry Haley, 898-1205.

Landscape Design Series

The schedule for this year's landscape design series is beginning to take shape. We will kick off with a visit to Libbey Oliver's home garden on May 5th. Over the course of the series we will also visit the Red Maple Inn, where Dr. Bankes plans to have 15 new roses in place by the time of our visit. We will finish up with a visit to a plantation where the owner, a master gardener, is renovating 5 acres with the help of a landscape designer. Both the owner and the designer, plan to be on hand for our visit, offering a unique perspective on the project.

The Landscape Series is held from 9:30 am until 11:30 am. Mark these dates on your calendar: May 5, May 19, June 2, and June 23. Watch for complete details in the next issue of the Green Thumb.

If there is a garden that you've been dying to see or one that you feel would be of interest to the group, please email me BennettTeresaH@aol.com and I'll try to get it into the schedule. Teresa Bennett, 875-0026

Plant Disease Notification

To All Agents Who Handle Plant Samples for Disease Diagnosis:

You may have heard about the Sudden Oak Death disease that has been hitting the news lately. The causal agent, *Phytophthora ramorum*, has been in the news lately due to findings at a large southern California nursery production site. To stay up to date on this subject, check this website on a regular basis. <http://www.aphis.usda.gov/lpa/issues/sod/sod.html> The website link included in this email will take you to the APHIS site on Sudden Oak Death. Plant Disease Clinic, 106 Price Hall, Virginia Tech, Blacksburg, Virginia 24061-0331.

Master Gardener Hours

Thank you to everyone who so diligently sent in their hours for Jim's report. Now that you are up to date, turn hours in to me often to make the task a little easier. Congratulations to the new Master Gardeners. You have reached your required 50 and now you can aim for the State Award of 250 hours! If you are a member of the class of 2003--now is the best time to get your required 50 completed so take full advantage of all the programs that are in swing.

Point of Clarification for the monthly programming meeting: these hours usually fall under category #3, Administrative Support. If there is a speaker, you can count that time only (usually no more than 1 hour) as category #2, Continuing Education. Therefore you cannot count the entire meeting time as category #2, Continuing Education. Still confused??? Call Terry Hanson, 872-9639. My email was incorrectly published. The correct email is: Hanson5T@cox.net.

2004 Study Trip Scheduled for May 11, 12, and 13th

Can't believe it has been 4 years since we visited the Raleigh-Durham area. Guess that just means more and better gardens will await us this year. Our schedule for this visit is similar to our last visits there. Both trips were wonderful.

We will leave the Fire and Public Safety Building parking lot on Tuesday May the 11th at 8 a.m. (Please arrive punctually (7:50) for check in, loading, and other details (carpooling and etc.)

Tuesday, May 11

Time	Place	Comment
8:00 am	Leave Fire/Safety Bldg	
12 noon	Durham restaurant	Jim chooses the sweetie one.
1:00 pm	UNC Botanical Garden at Chapel Hill	No fee.
4:00 pm	Duke Gardens	Closes at dusk. No fee.
End of Day	Dinner/Hotel for night	

Wednesday, May 12

9:00 am	Norman Beal's Garden	\$5 fee. Dr Lyons may meet us there if time permits.
12 noon	Lunch	Place to be decided.
1:00 pm	North Carolina St Arboretum	Dr Lyons will guide us. You are welcome to photograph, study, read, etc. No fee.
4:00 pm	Hotel/Bob Lyons' home	Cookout at Bob Lyons' home.

Thursday, May 13

8:30 am	Patterson's Gardens	Near Sanford. No fee.
11:00 am	Big Bloomers Plant Store	There for rest of day.
12 noon	Fish house in Sanford	Lunch
7:00-9:00 pm	Return to Fire/Safety Bldg	End of trip.

ALL TIMES ARE NOT EXACT. PLEASE ALLOW FOR FLEXIBILITY.

We have worked in some visits to many private gardens that are not shown above. Norman Beal made the arrangements.

Dr. Lyons has invited the men to stay at his house both nights. For all others, I am looking for a reasonably priced hotel convenient to our travels. If you would like to come with us, please call 868-7646 or email me at captmi@cox.net. Whether you have already told me or not, PLEASE GET BACK WITH ME. I will be out of town from Mar 31 until April the 19th. If you have not contacted me by then, call Carol Brower at 988-0231 or e-mail at her arnoldbrower@cox.net. We have only a 7-passenger van from the county available to us this year and it is full at this point. Another person has agreed to drive his personal van and take 3 people and he can take one more person. I will try to let you know who is driving and might have a space. Possibly we can arrange a carpool.

I will get back to everyone with the information on the motel when you contact me. If you need any more information call Carol Brower or me. Eleanor Hill, 868-7646.

Lawn Clinics

Dates have been chosen for Lawn Team training (May 18) as well as the clinics that will be held during July, August and September. If you, a friend or a neighbor would like to host a clinic, we have the following dates available. July 17 (Renovation), August 7 (Renovation), September 4 (Maintenance), September 18 (Maintenance), and September 25 (Maintenance). Please contact Tom Duggins (tduggins@yahoo.com or 898-7179) to schedule a clinic.

2004 Pruning Team

The Pruning Team had a very busy and successful pruning season. From mid-January to mid-March, the team responded to every call: **five** public pruning clinics, **three** training classes for MG trainees, **five** advanced training clinics, and **two** special pruning presentations ranging from a garden club to a class at the Horticultural Extravaganza. In all, we shared our knowledge and trained over 315 people. To continuously improve the education value of our program to the public, we handed out surveys this year and solicited feedback. We asked the public to rate their knowledge of pruning on a scale from 1-10 before the clinic and after the clinic. The results were noteworthy: the average knowledge before the clinic was 3.9 and the average knowledge after the clinic was an incredible 7.8!

We especially want to thank all the members of the Pruning Team. We had a wonderful group and everyone worked as a team. Your knowledge, hard work, and enthusiasm made for a winning season!

Thank you!!!!!!!!!! Janine Britcher & Clare Casey

2004 Horticultural Extravaganza

Thank you to all the volunteers for making this year's Horticultural Extravaganza such a success. We had 144 people register and only 6 no-shows...the best no-show rate in recent years. The evaluations were filled with compliments and praises. The attendees were especially impressed with the presentations and the helpfulness of the Master Gardeners.

A special thanks to this year's committee chairs and their teams for a **magnificent job**:

Beth Saunders - Tickets/Registration

Trudy White – Facilities

Dan Hawley – Copying

Evelyn Parker – Lunches

Karen Ward – Moderators

Martha Wilkins – Evaluations

Judy Ernsting – Co-coordinator

Julie Rolston – Finances

Jim Robertson – Equipment

Lily Lach – Posters

Judy Lange - Hospitality Room

Clare Britcher – Exhibitors

Jim Orband - Program & Publicity

Jody Painter – Master of all Trades

As this year's coordinator, I want to express my pride and admiration to all of you. Janine Casey, 865-1567.

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We're on the Web!

www.yorkcounty.gov/vce

April 2004

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1 9am-12n, Phone/Office Resources Training	2 Registration Deadline for CNU Gardening Symposium	3 9am, Spring Home Gardener Program, Yorktown Library 10:30-2, Volunteer Recognition Picnic
4	5	6 6:30-7:45pm, Plant Health Clinic, Coventry Subdivision, Tabb	7 7pm, York Homeowners Association	8	9 Arbor Day – Grafton Bethel ES Jody Annual Leave-----	10
11	12	13 9:30am, Monthly Programming Meeting, St Lukes -----	14 -----	15 -----	16 -----	17 8am-3pm, CNU's 7 th Annual Gardening Symposium
18	19	20 6:30-7:45pm, Plant Health Clinic, Yorkshire Downs, Tabb 7:30pm, YC Board of Supervisors, Volunteer Recognition -----Jody Annual Leave	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28 6:30-7:45pm, Plant Health Clinic, Lakes of Dare, Grafton	29	30	